Ministry of Defence

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John West

request-1383305-4478015f@whatdotheyknow.com

16 March 2026

Ref No: FOI2026/04047

Dear John West,

Thank you for your further correspondence of 21 February 2026 requesting the following information:

> *"To simply narrow the request down, I am seeking the official date of the decommissioning for the reservoir (or to put it, last used). The official decommissioning date would be useful for historians and the heritage of the area. I suspect it was some time ago."*

This is a further refinement of your correspondence of 26 December 2025 where you requested the following information, where we applied Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to your request:

> *"I request all recorded information held by the Ministry of Defence or Defence Infrastructure Organisation relating to the disused Couvre Porte (Couvre Port / Brompton) reservoir, located on the Chatham/Brompton Lines, Gillingham, Kent. Specifically, please provide:*
>
> *Records showing whether the MOD currently owns or is responsible for the reservoir land or structure, including title references, transfers, leases, or any agreements.*
>
> *Any documents stating which MOD/DIO department is responsible for maintenance, security, or management of the reservoir site.*
>
> *Any surveys, structural reports, environmental assessments, contamination or flood risk reports, or safety inspections for the reservoir.*
>
> *Internal/external correspondence, minutes, or emails relating to proposals to dispose of, transfer, renovate, or decommission the reservoir since 1980.*

Any historic maps, drawings, or archival references describing the reservoir's construction, capacity, and connection to Chatham Dockyard."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to know that MOD holds no records of the decommissioning of the Couvre Porte (Couvre Port / Brompton) reservoir. The most likely decommissioning window is between 1955 and 1964 as this is the period in which the Dockyard water infrastructure was fully converted to municipal mains and the internal reservoirs ceased their functional status. By the time of the closure announcement in 1964, the structure had been reclassified as non-operational.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at https://ico.org.uk/.

Yours sincerely

DIO Secretariat